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University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE

TORONTO, CANADA January 29th, 1915.

Dear Sir:

A communication was read yesterday to the Board of Governors of the University from Prof. Fitzgerald, outlining the opportunity of producing Antitetanic serum in the serum laboratories of the University, if funds could be secured for the necessary additional equipment and temporary maintenance.

We are very desirous therefore, of enlisting your co-operation in making possible this endeavour and will briefly point out the urgency of the need.

Tetanus (lockjaw) is the most dreaded of all the complications which the wounded soldier is heir to and the most fatal. Tetanus and Gangrene are the cause of almost all the deaths which result from wounds, which are not immediately fatal. Military surgeons are reporting that in no other campaign has the prevalence of Tetanus been so great or so fatal. This is readily accounted for in the fact that the Tetanus germ lives in all cultivated soil, and as almost all the wounds are received in trench fighting, soil laden with Tetanus germs is carried deeply into the wounds. To meet and prevent this terrible complication, wounded soldiers should receive a small dose of the serum which will prevent the development of lock-jaw. That this serum will prevent the development of lock-jaw is an established fact. The appalling number of men engaged in the conflict and the enormous casualty list has rendered it impossible to give to the wounded this necessity. Tetanus is therefore, claiming its thousands of wounded

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men.

In October, Germany issued an appeal to the specially trained men all over that country to produce all the Antitetanic serum possible and the response was immediate, yet last week medical reports published in most reliable journals stated that not a fraction of the necessary amount was available.

Every available serum laboratory in England, France and the United States is striving to furnish this serum, but in almost every case their entire output is spoken for in advance by the Allied Powers.

Briefly:

1. The University of Toronto has the trained men to prepare this serum. They have demonstrated their ability not only by producing Diphtheria Antitoxin, a similar serum, but in reducing the price so that it is now within the reach of the poorest child in Canada.

2. This laboratory can produce sufficient serum so that every Canadian Volunteer may be provided for.

3. The serum is made by injecting the poisons of the Tetanus germ into healthy horses in increasing doses for a period of from five to six months. Therefore, the laboratory and stables should be equipped at once, if the greatest use is to be made of them.

4. The laboratory can, in the meantime, supply sufficient serum for one thousand men each month to partially meet the

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demands of the Canadian Red Cross. This can be supplied to them for sixty five cents for fifteen hundred units instead of one dollar and twenty-five cents for the same amount, which is the lowest price which the Red Cross Society can purchase it, even in the largest quantities.

5. In six months the laboratory will be self-supporting, the sale price of sixty-five cents per fifteen hundred units being sufficient to pay the entire running expenses, cost of syringes, etc.

Trusting that I have sufficiently expressed the urgency of the need and the opportunity of meeting it, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

*Prof. D. Defries M.D.*

Mr. J. W. Flavelle,

Queen's Park,  
Toronto.

University of Toronto

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Cost of Equipment.

10 Horses (\$50.00 each) .....	500.00
Glassware )	
)	
Sterilizer) .....	550.00
)	
Incubator )	
	-----
	\$1050.00

Running Expense per Month.

Stable Expenses (10 horses)

Rent .....	25.00
Feed . ....	150.00
Stablemen....	100.00
	275.00
Salaries for extra assistants in laboratory	200.00
	-----
	\$475.00

Estimate for 7 months.

Cost of Equipment . .... .....	1050.00
Running Expenses, \$475.00 per month ....	3325.00
	-----
	\$4375.00

TORONTO, CANADA

A communication was read yesterday to the Board of Governors of the University from Prof. Fitzgerald, outlining the opportunity of producing Anti-Tetanic serum in the serum laboratories of the University, if funds could be secured for the necessary additional equipment and temporary maintenance. We are very desirous therefore, of enlisting your co-operation in making possible this endeavour and will briefly point out the urgency of the need.

Tetanus (lockjaw) is the most dreaded of all the complications which the wounded soldier is heir to and the most fatal. Tetanus and Gangrene are the cause of almost all the deaths which result from wounds, which are not immediately fatal. Military surgeons are reporting that in no campaign has the prevalence of Tetanus been so great or so fatal. This is readily accounted for in the fact that the Tetanus germ lives in all cultivated soil, and as almost all the wounds are received in trench fighting, soil laden with Tetanus germs is carried deeply into the wounds. To meet and prevent this terrible complication, wounded soldiers should receive a small dose of the serum which will prevent the development of lock-jaw. That this serum will prevent the development of lock-jaw is an established fact. The appalling number of men engaged in the conflict and the enormous casualty list has rendered it impossible to give to the wounded this necessity. Tetanus is therefore, claiming its thousands of wounded men.

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4. The laboratory can, in the meantime, supply sufficient serum for one thousand men each month to partially meet the demands of the Canadian Red Cross. This can be supplied to them for sixty five cents for fifteen hundred units instead of one dollar and twenty - five cents for the same amount, which is the lowest price which the Red Cross Society can purchase it, even in the largest quantities.

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Cost of Equipment.

10 Horses	(\$50.00 each) .....	\$500 00
Glassware)		
Sterilizer		550 00
Incubator		_____
		\$1050.00

Running Expense per Month.

Stable Expenses (10 horses)	
Rent.....	\$25.00
Feed.....	150.00
Stablemen.....	<u>75.00</u>
	250.00
Salaries for extra assistants in laboratory	<u>150.00</u>
	\$400.00

Estimate for 7 months.

Cost of Equipment.....	\$1000;00
Running Expenses, \$400.00 per month.....	2800.00
	_____
	\$3800.00